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22 October 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Current Intelligence

FROM: Chief, China and Asian Satellites Division

SUBJECT: Preliminary Evaluation of GRC Mission C555C

1. This evaluation is based on a field interpretation. The mission covered a number of military targets in South and Southeast China including several important military airfields, naval bases, and ground force installations. One of the primary objectives of the mission was to search for submarines. None were detected. One additional regiment of jet fighters was confirmed on Hainan Island. No new missile sites were detected. Data concerning Chinese Communist fighter reaction to this mission is not yet available.

Naval Bases

2. This mission covered three of the most important naval bases in South China where submarines would most likely be based. These were Yulin, Changchiang, and Huangpu. No submarines were detected and there was no evidence of a naval build-up. The field continues to report a destroyer escort at Huangpu, but this has been confirmed in previous NPIC analysis as a large patrol craft and not one of China's four RIGAs.

Air Force Facilities

3. Eleven airfields were photographed. Six of these are important tactical bases. An additional regiment of jet fighters was confirmed at Lingshui Airfield on Hainan Island.

October. There are now 18 MIG-19s at Haikou on Hainan--only nine had been previously noted. The number of MIG-15/17s jet fighters at Haikou remains

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about the same at 23. There are now a total of 86 jet fighters on Hainan Island. Earlier this year fighter strength approached this total when 75 jets were noted on the island. In early summer, however, a regiment was withdrawn. Other important airfields photographed were Canton/Nanhai, Suichi and Hsingning. The latter two were cloud covered, but at Canton/Nanhai there were 4 MIG-19s and 41 MIG 15/17s in evidence. The official AOB carried 22 MIG-19s and 57 MIG-15-17s types there.

Ground Force Installations

4. A number of ground force barracks areas and other military related installations were covered in poor quality photography. Nothing of significance was noted.

Prepared by:

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